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The Baptist Review

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... "Adopt Simpler Lifestyles. ..."

SBC Hunger Convocation Urges Personal Attention

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP) — Upheld by a commonly shared sense of urgency, 250 Southern Baptists grappled with potential solutions to an age-old problem during the first Southern Baptist Convocation on World Hunger.

Participants committed themselves to intense personal involvement and, through a dozen recommendations, urged the denomination to step up church efforts to cope with world hunger, before adjourning the two-day meeting at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

In a strongly worded statement, which drew some sharp criticism for its "negative tone," the group approved a recommendation calling upon the nation's 13-million Southern Baptists "to confess our corporate guilt" and to adopt simpler lifestyles. "Our lifestyles, our buildings, our budgets stand in judgment against us," the recommendation stated.

Although such recommendations do not bind any individual, church, or organization, convocation chairman W. David Sapp of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission said they will be forwarded to appropriate agencies.

Meanwhile, at least eight state Baptist conventions, holding annual meetings around the country just before the convocation, passed resolutions urging Southern Baptists to inform themselves and take decisive action to combat world hunger. The resolutions included calls for support of the SBC's World Hunger Day, Aug. 1, 1979, gifts through the SBC Foreign Mission Board, and commendation for the convocation.

Seven Speakers

Seven major speakers, representing a wide range of hunger-related interests and organizations, addressed convocation participants who came from 20 states to the Thanksgiving meeting.

In the keynote message, U. S. Rep.

John B. Anderson, R-Ill., charged that Americans "are victims of their own affluence." The nation's ability to produce has dulled its perception of a hungry world, he said.

"As a humanitarian nation, we must do our part and increase our share of giving so the world will not go hungry, fomenting unrest and making a ripe field for those who would spread anarchy and discord," Anderson said.

Several speakers stressed the importance of political action on behalf of the world's hungry.

Arthur Simon, executive director of

Bread for the World, and Ron Sider, author of "Rich Christians in Age of Hunger," contended that the religious community's silence on public policy has contributed to hunger.

"Do everything you can think of on the issue of hunger, but neglect public policy, and you have a formula for failure," Simon said. Hunger relief efforts, both private and public, are "never enough," he claimed, "even if you multiply by 100 times what you are doing."

Sider, an advocate of simpler lifestyle, said public involvement must be

backed by private integrity. "It's a farce to ask Washington to legislate what Christians refuse to live," he said.

Jimmy Allen, Southern Baptist Convention president, expanded on Christians' responsibility to a hungry world in the closing address.

"It's easy to defend social ministry," he said. "It's easy to have compassion for a hungry child. The difficult thing is to translate it into social action ... to political action, to the

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SBC Session To Be Beamed Here Via Satellite And Cablevision

Jackson will be the site of a satellite transmission during one session of the Southern Baptist Convention in the Houston Astrodome next June.

Jackson and nine other American cities will receive transmissions of a special service which is expected by SBC President Jimmy Allen, to include the dedication of some 1,000 missionaries. The service will be televised on closed circuit to a Jackson Baptist church, yet unnamed.

Plans call for more than 250,000 persons to view the Wednesday evening session of the June 12-14 meeting, including 50,000 in the Astrodome in person.

Additionally, Mississippi cable television subscribers in Jackson and in other cities whose cable companies have satellite earth receiving stations, will be able to view the service via cable television. A number of Mississippi cities have such capabilities, but only one company has confirmed availability of air time.

According to Butch Henley, marketing manager for Capitol Cablevision in Jackson, the satellite relay to the church and over cablevision will be

given at no charge to Baptists in Jackson.

The service to be viewed will feature Evangelist Billy Graham.

Negotiations are underway, according to James L. Pleitz, chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business, to telecast the program on large screens in the other nine cities.

Pleitz, pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, said such a program

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Speedboat For Evangelism Among Lottie Moon Requests

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A speedboat will be one of many items purchased for foreign missions if the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal is met, but the boat won't be used for water sports.

The boat, requested by Southern Baptist missionaries in Bangladesh, a country of 20 major rivers, will aid in village evangelism. Currently, there are only 14 Southern Baptist-related churches in Bangladesh, which ranks eighth in world population.

This speedboat is one of hundreds of items the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions can help provide for overseas missions. Churches and chapels will be built, housing for missionaries will be purchased, and Baptist centers and hospitals will be equipped — all in an effort to tell people about Christ.

If the \$40,000,000 goal is met, a portion of the money will be used to help provide church facilities. One such facility is in Jamaica where strategic property was purchased near the University of the West Indies several years ago. Jamaica Baptists want to begin a student ministry through the establishment of a university Baptist church. One-third of the cost of that building, \$40,000, is requested from this year's Christmas Offering.

Fifty-thousand dollars have been requested for the Korean Baptist church loan fund. In Korea, no church

can get a new loan while another church is behind in its payments. Consequently, churches often help a struggling church with payments so they may borrow money.

A sizable portion of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering allocations is designated for mass communication and audiovisuals. The use of radio, TV, and film media gives more people the opportunity to hear the gospel.

Money has been requested for a generator to be used for showing movies in Botswana. In the village areas of Africa, movies are crowd-gatherers, giving missionaries a chance for personal witness.

In Thailand missionaries need \$8,000 for a Thai-language film to use in evangelistic work. Two earlier films were very successful in their outreach program.

Radio equipment is needed in Colombia. Missionaries there have requested \$12,000 for this outreach project, which includes 16 stations heard in 24 countries.

If the \$40,000,000 goal is reached, much-needed money will be available for education facilities.

More than \$4,000 is being requested for vocational school equipment in Kenya. In developing countries, one of

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Witness Training Seminars Planned At Sophia Sutton

Earl Kelly, Roy Collum, Donald Johnson, and J. Alfred Smith will be speakers at Good News Mississippi Witness Training Seminars Dec. 7 and 8 at Sophia Sutton Baptist Assembly near Prentiss.

Dick Brogan, president, Mississippi Baptist Seminary, will preside at the four sessions of the seminars.

The seminars will get under way at 10 a. m. on Thursday. There will be

afternoon and evening sessions on Thursday, and a final session will be on Friday morning. Lunch, supper, and refreshments will be served on Thursday; and breakfast and lunch will be served on Friday.

Smith is acting dean of the American Baptist Seminary of the West at Berkeley, Calif. He will be in charge of

Scripture Memorization Is Purpose Of Clinics

Bible Drill clinics for Northcentral Mississippi have been scheduled for December 11 and 12 according to Kermit S. King, director of the Mississippi Baptist Church Training Department.

These clinics offer training for youth and children's workers who will be responsible for promoting participation in the Children's Bible Drill and Youth Bible Drill in the churches of this area.

Clinic leaders include Bill Hardy, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Columbus; Mrs. Vivian Reeves, children's director, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson; Mrs. Lillian Walters of Jackson; Reuben Moore of Tupelo; Mrs. Greta Lloyd of Starkville; and Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Winstead of Jackson.

The purpose of these clinics is to instruct representatives from churches in how to recruit and train children and youth to participate in the drills.

The Bible drills for youth and children constitute a program to teach older children and youth the books of the Bible; develop skill in finding selected passages, and memorizing specified verses of scripture.

On Monday, December 11, clinics will be held at Immanuel, Cleveland (Mrs. Walters, clinic leader), Parkway, Kosciusko (Reuben Moore); Immanuel, Greenwood (T. O. Winsteads), First Baptist Church, Louisville (Mrs. Greta Lloyd); and First Baptist Church, Newton (Mrs. Vivian Reeves).

On Tuesday, December 12, the clinics will be held at Second Baptist Church, Greenville (Mrs. Lillian Walters); First Baptist, Grenada (Reuben Moore); First Baptist, Columbus (Bill Hardy); First Baptist, Eupora (Mrs. Greta Lloyd); and Trinity, Waynesboro (Mrs. Vivian Reeves).

Starting time is 7:00 P.M. in all the clinics.

Leaflets containing rules and materials to be used in the drills will be available at the clinics. They are now available upon request from the Church Training Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

King states that clinic leaders are available to associations outside of the specified area for emphasis in 1978. A similar series of meetings was held in south Mississippi in 1977.



Kelly



Collum



Brogan



Smith

four study periods entitled "The New Life," "The Cleansed and Controlled Life," "The Witnessing Life," and "The Growing Life."

Kelly is executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He will speak at three of the four sessions with messages titled "Using the Booklet: 'How to Have a Full and Meaningful Life,'" "The Witnessing Visit in the Home," and "Continuing Witness Plans."

Johnson, who is consultant in the Evangelism Section of the Home Missions Department, will speak at the fourth session.

(Continued on page 2)

Southern Names Jacksonian

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — The executive committee of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary board of trustees elected Harold S. Songer as assistant provost and confirmed the appointment of Elisabeth Lambert as acting dean of student affairs.

A seminary faculty member since 1968, Songer will continue to serve as professor of New Testament interpretation and director of basic professional studies in the seminary's School of Theology.

In his new role, Songer will coordinate the work of the registrar, admissions, placement and college relations offices.

Mrs. Lambert, a native of Jackson, Miss., fills the position vacated by Arthur L. Walker Jr., who recently became executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Education Commission. She has served as director of student services in the seminary's student affairs division since 1975.

\$8 Million For Missions

A. L. Nelson, right, business manager for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, hands a check from Ridgeland Baptist Church to Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Convention Board. The check put Convention Board missions receipts over the \$8 million figure for 1978. This was the first time for Cooperative Program receipts in Mississippi to hit \$8 million. The check arrived in Convention Board offices on Nov. 27. In the center is Mrs. Clyde Nettles, chief bookkeeper. The \$7 million plateau was reached on Dec. 15, 1976. An \$8 million total was missed in 1977 by only \$72,000.

Central Hills Plans Ready For Contractors

The deadline for submitting bids for construction work at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko will be announced soon, according to an announcement by W. Levon Moore, chairman of the Central Hills Development Committee.

In the meantime, Moore indicated, the plans and specifications for the camp center building and the two bath houses are complete and ready to be released. Construction contractors who are interested in bidding on the

project are invited to obtain copies of the plans and specifications to be studying in preparation for making bids.

The plans and specifications may be obtained by contacting Dean and Dean architectural firm in Jackson or Moore's office in Kosciusko. The Dean and Dean telephone number is 366-1456. Moore is director of missions for Atlanta Association. The number there is 289-1766. The Mississippi area code for calls from outside the state is 601.

Tall Horse For The Boys



In photo left to right are Paul Herrell, state Brotherhood director; Billy Thompson of Madison, donor of the horse; Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Goliath; and Rusty Griffin, Brotherhood consultant in charge of camping for boys.

Goliath, a Clydesdale horse, has been donated to the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department for use at Central Hills Baptist Retreat at Kosciusko.

The horse, reputed to be the world's tallest (too tall, even, for the beer wagon team), will be a drawing card for the boy's camp which is being built in the center of the state.

A gift of Billy Thompson, a Methodist layman who said he gave the horse to the Baptists to be sure he got enough to eat, Goliath will be joined in a stable by 25 horses of a more suitable size for riding by boys.

The camping program which is slated to begin next June, is in need of other recreational equipment, including the 25 horses and saddles. Rusty Griffin, camping director reports that laymen are needed to construct a barn for the horses. The cost of purchasing five paddle boats, five sailboats, and two tennis courts, is asked for from laymen in the state.

Clinton Couple Volunteer For Six Months' Mission To Brazil

By Anne McWilliams

Debbie and Phil Pierce of Clinton will go as mission volunteers to Brazil for six months, at their own expense. They plan to leave the States on Dec. 21.

The place of service has been okayed by the Foreign Mission Board, James Cecil, Volunteer Missions overseas coordinator. The Board will provide one plane ticket.

They will be working at Campina Grande, Paraiba, where Debbie's parents, Edd and Freda Trott, are missionaries. Their work will involve teaching missionary kids, working in a Baptist camp, assisting at a January retreat for missionary kids in Sao Paulo, and helping in other missions tasks as needed.

Both graduated from Mississippi College last year and were married in May, 1977, in the chapel at the college. Since that time they have been working and saving money with this goal in mind. They are members of Northside Church, Clinton.

Debbie has been employed by Standard Life Insurance Company, Jackson, and Phil was Dantin's distribution manager.

Phil, one of five children, is the son of Travis and Gene Pierce; his father is an Amory optometrist. One of his sisters is married to John Wayne Edwards, pastor at Little Rock, Miss.

Debbie was born in Meridian. Her brother John is a senior at Mississippi College, and she has a brother and sis-

ter in Brazil.

Because of the mission study emphasis on Brazil this fall, Debbie had scheduled appointments to speak in eight churches this month.

She speaks four languages — Portuguese, Spanish, French, and English. At MC she majored in French and Spanish and spent her junior year in France.

Besides her insurance job she translates the Stockman Farmer Magazine into Spanish, and teaches Spanish and French in Mississippi College's PACE program.

Phil has an interest in history, which was his major. He runs, reads, and plays the guitar, and is learning Portuguese.



Phil and Debbie Pierce will leave Dec. 21 for six months; volunteer mission service in Brazil. (Fluffy, at left, will stay in Mississippi at Amory.)

IRS Ruling On Schools Faces Fight In Congress

WASHINGTON (BP) — At least two members of the 96th Congress will introduce legislation to counter the effect of a controversial proposed rule of the Internal Revenue Service on private schools and racial discrimination.

U. S. Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., and U. S. Rep. Larry McDonald, D-Ga., have both promised to take such action to prevent the IRS from implementing a quota system for minority students in tax-exempt private schools.

The proposed rule would require private schools which claim tax exemption under the Internal Revenue Code to prove they are not racially discriminatory. A quota system would be established by the ruling.

Pell said he agrees with the goal of eliminating tax exemption for so-called "white flight" schools established or enlarged after federal courts ordered integration of the public schools, but feels that the IRS guidelines are too broad and will "almost inevitably entangle many, many non-discriminatory private schools."

McDonald plans to introduce a bill in the 96th Congress to stop the IRS ruling from being implemented or to repeal it if it has already been ordered. A spokesman from McDonald's office said the congressman feels any action taken by the IRS without congressional consideration would be "premature."

sional consideration would be "premature."

Missionaries In Iran Keep Watch On Teheran Unrest

TEHERAN, Iran (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries in this riot-torn capital are staying in their homes as much as possible but are keeping close touch with the American embassy in case it becomes necessary for them to leave the country.

James F. Kirkendall, field representative for South Asia stationed in Teheran, reported in a telephone conversation early Nov. 6 that the city had been quieter in the past few hours. He told J. D. Hughey, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area secretary for Europe, the Middle East and South Asia, that the missionaries would leave if advised to do so. Southern Baptist missionaries will depart with groups employed by American business firms in Iran if the need arises.

Newspaper accounts said the crowds shouted anti-American slogans, burned the British embassy and attempted to burn the American embassy during the riots.

Southern Baptist missionaries in

Sophia Sutton

(Continued from page 1)

sion Board, will lead creative activity at all four sessions.

Collum, director of evangelism for Mississippi Baptists, will deliver the opening message for the Thursday afternoon session: "Using your Personal Testimony in Witnessing."

The theme for the witness training seminars will be "Set my Soul a Fire." The sessions will be a part of the preparation for the Good News Mississippi simultaneous revivals in April in white churches and in black churches. The revivals will be preceded by a rally March 23 in the Jackson municipal auditorium. An integrated choir of 300 voices is expected to provide special music for the rally. The speakers are to be W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, and Caesar Clark, pastor of Good Street Baptist Church, Dallas.

The revivals, the rally, and the witnessing training are factors in Mississippi Baptists' participation in Bold Mission Thrust.

Kennedy Resigns, Cites "Exhaustion"

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (BP) — Bill Kennedy, Chattanooga pastor whose wife died from a bullet wound, Aug. 23, 1978, has resigned his pastorate, effective Jan. 24, 1979.

Kennedy's wife died when a gun he reached for beneath his pillow discharged, hitting Mrs. Kennedy in the head. He told police Mrs. Kennedy had encouraged him to put the gun under his pillow following threatening phone calls.

Newsbriefs In The World Of Religion



Kansas City, Mo. (RNS) — An International School for Native American Ministries has been established at United Methodist-related Saint Paul School of Theology here. It is the latest in a series of ethnic centers established by agencies of the denomination, including one for Asians at the School of Theology at Claremont (Calif.), one for Hispanics at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, and a multi-ethnic center at Drew University, Madison, N. J.

Monrovia, Liberia — In cooperation with the Sinoe Bible Institute and the African Bible College, the World Home Bible League is now distributing 50,000 copies of a special edition of the Living New Testament here.

Hartford (RNS) — Connecticut's Sunday closing law, under attack by many merchants, politicians and law enforcement officers, has been defended here by a coalition of Church leaders. The Christian Conference of Connecticut, which includes the Catholic Church and the state's major Protestant denominations, described the Common Day of Rest Law as an attempt to "conserve our natural resources; to recognize the need for a common day of rest by means of the general cessation of work; to create an atmosphere of repose and tranquility in which individuals can relax and families, friends and relatives can gather for social occasions and recreation; and to limit business activities on one day of the week."

Port Elizabeth, South Africa — Students in the Baptist theological college in South Africa recently got to see the results of applying facts and theories and returned to college with renewed enthusiasm. During the college's annual evangelism mission, 15 students fanned out in teams across the country and gave packets nurturing a Christian life to 93 people making decisions. They saw others make rededications in the services they led and whole communities became acquainted with Baptists for the first time, said Mrs. Harrison Pike, missionary.

Elgin, Ill. (RNS) — The General Board of the Church of the Brethren has protested an international arms exhibit scheduled next February in Chicago. Calling it an "immoral commercialization of arms," the General Board of the denomination opposed the exhibit, "Defense Technology '79," scheduled for Feb. 18-21 at the O'Hare International Exposition Center, near Chicago's airport.

Richmond (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has sent an emergency allocation of \$10,000 for food and temporary shelter to the Philippines in the wake of the typhoon which hit the islands in late October. Government reports indicate the storm and resulting flooding affected more than 575,000 people. The money will be used for food, temporary shelter, or house repairs, and church repairs and to provide seed rice for farmers to replace ruined rice crops.

Homosexual Rights Votes' Results Mixed

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Voters in Dade County, Florida, again refused to include protection for homosexuals in their county anti-discrimination ordinance, but homosexuals in Seattle and California fared better on election day.

The issue in Dade County attracted far less attention than it did 17 months ago behind Anita Bryant's name and influence. This time the vote was 189,033 to 135,705. The 58-42 percent vote margin was 11 percent closer than the first vote.

California voters rejected Proposition 6, which would have made it easy to fire homosexual school teachers and their sympathizers, by 58 to 42 percent.

The initiative was proposed by a state senator from Fullerton, John Briggs. Independent Baptist preacher Jerry Falwell held a fund raising rally for proponents, but the issue lost soundly in all areas of the state.

The ballot in Seattle asked voters if they wanted to remove the words "sexual orientation" from their city ordinance barring all forms of discrimination. They said "no" 101,809 to 59,797, thereby granting continued protection from discrimination to homosexuals.

In a homosexual issue not brought to the voters, the New York City Council's General Welfare Committee voted 6-3 recently to reject a bill that would outlaw discrimination against homosexuals in housing, jobs, and public accommodations.

Christmas Telecast Date Changed

"The Story of Christmas," a holiday special starring Tennessee Ernie Ford as performer and narrator, and featuring the Sanctuary Choir of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, will be colorcast on the NBC Television Network Saturday, Dec. 2 (8-9 p.m. CST). The program was previously announced for Dec. 8.

Beamed Via Satellite

(Continued from page 1)

would cost Baptists in those other localities \$6,500 for the telecast. The cost of beaming the telecast up to the satellite is \$9,000, he added.

The SBC Foreign and Home Mission Boards, joint sponsors of the dedication service of the 1,000 persons entering mission work for one or more years, will underwrite the \$9,000.

The SBC Radio and Television Commission will do the technical work to implement the broadcast, according to SBC President Jimmy R. Allen.

The service will emphasize the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust effort to proclaim the message of Christ to the entire world in this century and dramatically escalate missionary appointments through regular channels of the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, as well as through the SBC's newly formed Mission Service Corps.

The overall theme of the 1979 convention, Pleitz said, will be "Bold Mission — While it is Yet Day." All convention sessions but the one on Wednesday night, June 13, will take place in The Summit in Houston.

Challenge to Virginia Obscenity Laws Fails

WASHINGTON (BP) — A challenge to Virginia's obscenity laws died when the Supreme Court declined to hear a case brought by a Richmond bookstore owner challenging the laws as vague and too broad.

The owner also challenged the Virginia laws because they allegedly allow state colleges and universities to use materials deemed obscene for use by private citizens.

Last April, the Virginia Supreme Court upheld a local Richmond court's ruling against the bookstore owner. The nation's high court refused to hear the case without comment.

Justices William J. Brennan Jr., and Thurgood Marshall, however, said they would have reversed the Virginia courts, thereby striking down the laws.

Hunger Convocation Urges Personal Attention

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systems of society, the conscience of the people."

Biblical Basis
In presenting the biblical basis for the right-to-food concept, Southern Baptist theologian Francis DuBoise charged, "Christians' pious justification of the neglect of the hungry millions in the name of spirituality is a facade. Our real problem is indifference... conscious neglect which the Bible can only call sin."

Outlining the role of private volunteer organizations, Midge Meinertz, assistant to the executive director of Church World Service for Development, said any successful approach to world hunger should incorporate an understanding of the complexity of the world and the climate in which hunger-related projects must develop.

"Hunger thrives on the powerlessness of political naivete," she asserted. "No matter what form you choose to take in the accelerated fight against hunger, changes in world conditions will affect results."

Economist James P. Grant, president of the Overseas Development Council, said the basic problem facing the world's undeveloped and underdeveloped nations is not hunger itself, but the poverty which dooms people to hunger. He said, however, that the United States has the ability to "break the back" of world hunger.

Other recommendations adopted

during the meeting called for more Southern Baptist involvement in hunger-related political action groups and development of educational programs emphasizing biblical, practical dimensions of world hunger.

Six BSUs Hold Missions Rally

By Carol Cole

Students in Bold Missions recently held a rally at the Harrisburg Baptist Church in Tupelo.

The rally was sponsored by the Baptist Student Union at Blue Mountain College, Itawamba Junior College, Mississippi State University, Mississippi University for Women, and the University of Mississippi. Stan Nelson from the Foreign Mission Board was the featured speaker for the rally.

"Drawn Together" an ensemble from Mississippi State University provided the musical entertainment for the evening. The group's leader, Johnny Buckner from Starkville, served this past summer on the Student Mission Team to Southeast Asia.

A multi-media show prepared by Louie Farmer, campus minister at the University of Southern Mississippi, interpreted the theme of the Bold Mission Rally. The show consisted of narration and slides showing students and their encounters as summer missionaries.

Change In Location Of Keyboard Festival

The Keyboard Festival scheduled on Saturday, January 27, 1979, at First Baptist Church, Greenwood, has been changed to First Baptist Church, Greenville, with Kenneth Forbus as Festival Leader.

Worker Beliefs Not Penalized

WASHINGTON (BP) — Federal employees whose religious beliefs require them to take time off from work occasionally will be allowed to work overtime to make up the lost time, according to the provisions of a bill signed into law by President Jimmy Carter.

The Federal Employees Flexible and Compressed Work Schedules Act of 1978 contains a section which permits federal employees to make up lost time rather than having it deducted from annual leave or pay.

Previous law required that overtime work be compensated by time-and-a-half pay, which in some cases made the cost of allowing workers to make up time prohibitive. Under the new law overtime for religious observances will be at regular pay rates.

Motel Information For Youth Evangelism Meeting, Dec. 27-28

Holiday Inn, 5075 I-55 North, 366-9411, Innkeeper — Mr. Travis Alvarez, \$20.25 (3); \$25.00 (4). Holiday Inn rates based on a minimum reservation of 20 rooms total.

Jacksonian Inn, 4800 I-55 North, 981-2345. Call collect for reservations. Singles for sponsors is \$18.00; \$21.00 (3); \$28.00 (4). No minimum number of rooms needed to receive this rate.

Passport Inn, 5035 I-55 North, 982-1011 \$22.00 (2); \$25.00 (3); \$28.00 (4). Innkeeper — Mr. Carroll Sharpe. No minimum number of rooms needed to receive this rate. Single occupancy is \$17.00.

Quality Inn, 5925 I-55 North, 956-8000. \$23.00 (3); \$25.00 (4). Please speak with either Sales Manager or Innkeeper when making reservations. Innkeeper — Mark Kauper. No minimum number of rooms needed to receive this rate.

Rodeway Inn, 3720 I-55 North, 982-1122. \$21.00 (3); \$28.00 (4). Contact Christine Abreu. Minimum of 15 rooms must be reserved in total to receive this rate discount.

Sheraton Motor Inn, I-55 North, 982-1044. \$24.00 (2); \$27.00 (3); \$32.00 (4). Contact person is Retta Williamson. This is the standard student rate at all Sheratons. No minimum number of rooms needed to receive this rate.

Definition of minimum number of rooms needed to receive discount rate: If the total rooms reserved by conference attendees — regardless of how many churches reserve rooms — does not exceed the minimum number, the discount rate can not be counted on. We will need churches to check, when calling, to see if the minimum number of rooms needed reserved is anywhere near being met.

We must have enough conference participants in the motels requiring minimum number of reservations to fill up the minimum number of rooms in order for the rates quoted to be good.

New York (RNS) — TV stars Donny and Marie Osmond and humorist Sam Levenson were honored here at the 13th annual Morality in Media Awards dinner for their positive contributions to the enrichment of family entertainment.

Hinds BSU Center Dedication Scheduled

The Baptist Student Union Center at Hinds Junior College, Raymond, will be dedicated Dec. 3 in ceremonies beginning at 2:30 p.m.

The program will be one mainly of historical interest and will be followed by an open house.

The one-story building is of brick construction and contains 5,483 square feet. There are offices for the director and a secretary, a work room, two rest rooms, library, kitchen, recreation-dining room which will seat 200, and a patio.

The associations surrounding the college gave \$49,815 toward the total construction cost of \$225,000. The building was furnished by the Mississippi Baptist Convention at a cost of \$6,000.

The architects were Dean and Dean of Jackson, and the construction was by Jordan Construction Co. of Jackson.

Betty Jane Frew is Baptist Student Union director at Hinds Junior College.

A Bold Thrust

Annual Sermon For 1978 Mississippi Baptist Convention

Joe N. McKeever
First Baptist Church
Columbus, MS.

A cartoon shows a knight instructor counseling a young Sir Lancelot whose lance is stuck in a tree, having missed his target by several feet. "It was a thrust," he says. "It was even a bold thrust. But, Sir Knight, it was a bold MISSING thrust!"

We Southern Baptists are engaged in the greatest missionary endeavor of our 138 years. We're going to have 5,000 career missionaries on the fields of the world by the end of this century. Our goal is to tell everyone in the world of the Savior by that year. We're going to have 5,000 short-term missionaries at work under the Mission Service Corps by 1982 and double our Cooperative Program giving by then. We are emphasizing the Great Commission as never before. We're calling all of this our Bold Mission Thrust.

What I want to say to us today is that unless we wake up and smell the coffee — to use a bad cliché — our Bold Mission Thrust will become a Bold Missing Thrust!! And the factors that make the difference are very subtle.

Nephew To David

My text is the story of Asahel found in Second Samuel 2. Nephew to David and brother to Joab and Abishai, Asahel lived in the shadow of some great men. He no doubt recalled the story of David's victory over Goliath and longed likewise to do great and inspiring deeds. One day his opportunity would come.

Following a battle between David's men and the rebellious warriors of Israel led by Abner, young Asahel spied the retreating Abner heading for the hills. Here was his opportunity! So he took off after him. Now, the Bible says that Asahel was as swift-footed as a gazelle. And with Abner weighted down with armor, shield, sword and spear, he didn't stand a chance. Asahel could easily catch him. There was just one problem — he had not figured out what to do with Abner once he caught him! Not only was Asahel not a match for this veteran general, he wasn't even wearing armor!

Seeing the youth hot on his trail, Abner called back, "Is that you, Asahel?" It was. "Turn aside now," he called. "Fight one of the younger men and take his armor!" But Asahel kept on coming. "Asahel," Abner repeated, "Turn aside. For how will I ever face your brother Joab if I have to kill his little brother?" But Asahel came on. And he caught up to Abner.

Probably intending to knock him down, Abner thrust backward with the butt of his spear. Tragically, the Bible says the shaft of the spear went all the way through his body. He died on the spot. A senseless death of a young man with great potential.

There was so much to be admired in Asahel. He was strong and fast. He was courageous and ambitious, and willing to work alone if necessary. Once he committed himself to a task, he didn't know how to quit.

But it all went for nothing. And that's what I mean by a bold missing thrust. It is entirely possible for us to set great goals, make big plans, do courageous deeds, and yet fail miserably to win a victory for our Lord. Like Asahel, we can go out in a blaze of mediocrity. All potential and no production.

So, I ask us three questions today. The same three that could have made the difference with young Asahel.

Question Number One: Can you listen to suggestions? That is, can we take criticism?

Now Asahel could not listen to others. He got good advice that day from Abner, but his mind was made up. After all, he was a goal-oriented person and nothing would turn him aside.

This is the difference between maturity and immaturity. Immaturity does not know its weaknesses and does not believe anyone else could. So it does not want to listen to other people. Maturity does not mean one has no weaknesses, but rather that one knows about them and consequently is willing to listen to other people.

David was not so proud that he could not listen to others. Somebody suggested that he ought to wear Saul's armor to fight Goliath. Keep in mind that David was a youth and Saul was head and shoulders taller than anyone in the kingdom. But David tried them on. To be sure, he discarded them — but the point is that he wasn't so proud that he would not listen to others.

Years later when David was king, he was fleeing Jerusalem as Absalom led his rebellion. When David and his people neared the Jordan, a disgruntled descendant of Saul stood on a hillside nearby and yelled insults at him. "David, you man of blood!" he cried as he hurled rocks. "God is doing this because of your murderous deeds!"

"Listen"

Standing nearby, Abishai volunteered to take off the head of one so foolish as to curse the king. But David's answer is revealing. "Put up your sword," he said, "And listen to the man. He may be right." (2 Samuel 16)

Even our Lord was interested in the opinions of others. "Whom do men say that I am?" He asked. And we all remember how Moses benefitted from the advice of his father-in-law Jethro to organize Israel in order to handle disputes better.

No one enjoys receiving criticism. But we must receive it if we would learn, and grow. E. Stanley Jones used to say, "Critics are the unpaid guardians of my soul." That is, they keep me on my toes and reveal my areas of need.

Maybe Bishop Stephen Neill said it best: "Criticism is the manure in which the servants of the Lord grow best."

I like that, because it combines the good and bad aspects of criticism. It's something we dislike and we don't want to be around too much of it at one time, but it can be very very healthy.

tions? Can we listen to criticism and benefit from it? Can we pastors take it the way we can dish it out? Can our state leaders take it without thinking we're trying to sink the boat? Can we all admit that we do indeed have glaring weaknesses and quit trying to ignore them?

Question Number Two: Are we planning to succeed or to fail?

Asahel made his plans to fail. His goal was to win a great victory over Abner that day, but he did not plan to meet his goal. He had no armor, no weapon and no strategy.

Now David is a different story. Facing the giant, he announced that the battle was already the Lord's. "I will strike you down and remove your head!" he promised. Then he took five stones and his sling. You've heard people speculate as to why he picked up five stones — that four were for Goliath's brothers! I don't know about that, but it does bring out an interesting point — David expected to defeat Goliath! He had made his plans to succeed.

This is the question Southern Baptists must face: are we planning to succeed with our Bold Mission Thrust? If so, we'd better do what Asahel would not do and:

1) **Wear our armor.** So many of our people fall prey each year to the cults. Because we send them to do battle without their armor. They know they are to love Jesus and believe the Bible and the cults exploit this. To be strong and protected in the Lord, our people must put on the helmet of the Lord's salvation, the breastplate of the Lord's righteousness, the waistband of the Lord's truth, the shoes of the Lord's Gospel, and the shield of the Lord's faith.

2) **Use our weapon.** The Lord's sword is His Word. It's a two-edged sword — it has a "twin blade" effect of cutting and healing. Remember: it was the Word Jesus used when He was tempted by the devil; it is the Word that is the seed of the new birth; it is the Word that God promises to honor above His own name; it is the Word that is sharper than a two-edged sword; it is the Word that pierces even to the division of soul and spirit; it is the Word that can divide the joints and the marrow; it is the Word that is able to judge the thoughts and intents of the heart; it is the Word that will endure long after all flesh has faded away.

Use your sword Christian. You've been given no other weapon. Use your sword.

One of our Coast Guard ships hit a Norwegian vessel a few weeks ago. It was the fault of the Coast Guard ship. In the investigation, it turned out that the lookout on that ship was a 17 year old recruit who had been on board for one day. He couldn't even remember which was starboard and which was port! But compare such immaturity with the ineptitude of so many Baptists who don't know Noah from Jonah and wouldn't have the slightest idea how to defend their faith with an open Bible.

When we send warriors to do battle without armor and without a weapon, I ask you if we are not sending them forth to fail? But not only do we need armor and a weapon,

3) **We need a strategy.** How are we going to reach our goals? It's not enough to say we'll face that when the time comes. That's what Asahel thought.

Let's get specific. What is your church doing, what is my church doing, to give the world a Bold Mission Thrust? Is it business as usual around your place? Have you thought about praying for God to call out missionaries? Have you gotten your leaders together and begun to ask how you can increase your mission giving? Have you thought about joining the number of churches that are going into pioneer areas and building new church buildings? How about getting your teenagers involved in mission Bible schools and backyard Bible clubs in your town. Specifically, what is your strategy for fulfilling our Lord's Great Commission in your lifetime?

Question Number Three: Where is our real strength?

Asahel trusted in his own physical strength, the flesh. Not once does he mention the Lord. Contrast this with young David who announced to Goliath.

"You come to me with a sword and a shield. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel. The battle is the Lord's!"

Asahel is a picture of the Lord's people down through the years. We alternate between two bad extremes — feeling one day we can do all things without the Lord, and the next that we can do nothing even with the Lord. Both are false. Jesus said, "Without me ye can do nothing." And Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ." That's how it really is!

Our Lord loves to get us to exhaust our own pitiful resources so we can begin to draw on his inexhaustible supply. You can explain most of His dealings with Israel simply by understanding that point. He draws them into a box canyon again and again — no escape on either side and Pharaoh's army coming on — in order to show

them His glory. He gets them in the middle of the desert three days without water in order to show that He can provide water out of a rock! He gets those 2 million people in the desert — so he can provide food from heaven! And He promises these ex-slaves a rich Land of Promise which as it turned out was held by giants inside walled cities. God wanted to show them that what they could not take, He could give! and when they did not believe in His ability to provide, God rejected them and let them wander in Sinai until the adults died. With a touch of humor, God is quoted in Hebrews 3 as saying, "Your fathers tried me by testing me — so I showed them my works for forty years!"

Paul says it just right in II Corinthians 3:5, "Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is of God." And again in Colossians 2:9-10: "In Christ there is all the Godhead dwelling bodily. And ye are complete in Him." Ah, think of that! We are complete in Christ. Lacking nothing.

God has promised us the strength of Samson. What was it? The Lord. When the Lord left, so did His strength. And the same source: faithfulness to the Lord, and the same supply: all you need. That's how much Samson was given and our Lord will give us no less. So make your plans big and plan on meeting those goals, because you have a big God and He is willing to supply your needs!

Charles Haddon Spurgeon said the crisis in his life was a dream that he had at a time when he was well-satisfied with his ministry. One afternoon he had fallen asleep in a complacent mood as his work was being very successful. As he slept, he saw a stranger enter the room carrying the old-fashioned balancing scales. Standing before Spurgeon, he asked, "How is your zeal?"

Immediately Spurgeon conceived of his zeal as something physical. He reached into his bosom and brought it out. The stranger placed it on his scales, and weighed it carefully. Mr. Spurgeon heard him say, "One hundred pounds!" Well, that was very good, Spurgeon thought, until he saw the serious look on the stranger's face.

He had noted the weight in his book and continued his investigation. He broke the mass to atoms, put it into his crucible and put the crucible into the fire. When the mass was thoroughly cooled he took it out and set it down to cool. Then, as the hammer touched it, the various layers of material separated. The stranger then severely tested and weighed each one, making notes as the process went on. Finally, when finished he presented his notes to Mr. Spurgeon adding with compassion, "May God save you." Then he left the room.

Zeal Analysis

The astonished Spurgeon opened the notes and read as follows: "Analysis of the zeal of a candidate for a crown of glory. Weight in mass, 100 lbs. Of this, on analysis, there proved to be: Bigotry, 10 parts; personal ambition, 23 parts; love to praise, 19 parts; pride of denomination, 15 parts; pride of talent, 14 parts; love of authority, 12 parts; love to God, 4 parts; love to man, 3 parts. Total, 100." Of the 100 parts, only 7 comprising love to God and love to man were pure zeal.

Mr. Spurgeon said when he looked at the figures his heart sank as lead within him. He fell upon his knees and cried out, "Lord, save me!" As he knelt, the paper with its terrible analysis became a mirror, and he saw his heart reflected in it. The record was true! He saw it, he felt it, he confessed it, he deplored it. He had prayed in years gone by to be saved from hell, but now he longed more fervently to be saved from himself. Mr. Spurgeon said he did not rest until the refining fire came down and went through his heart searching, probing, melting, burning, filling all its chambers with light, and hallowing his whole heart to God. He declared ever afterwards that that day was the crisis in his life.

Let me sum it up. The ability to listen to criticism and to take suggestions — that is humility. Making our plans to succeed in these undertakings into which God has put us — that's faith. Looking to our Lord to supply all our need — that's trust.

It could have made the difference for young Asahel. It must make the difference for us.

DECEMBER, 1978

Sunday School	FOREIGN MISSIONS DAY IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL, DECEMBER 10
Church Training	PLAN ENLISTMENT/PUBLICITY PROMOTION FOR JANUARY-MARCH Sunday, March 25, is High Attendance Night in Church Training. Plan a three-month publicity-promotion project to (1) give maximum exposure of Church Training, (2) publicize CHURCH: THE SUNDAY NIGHT PLACE, and (3) enlist church members in attendance.
Church Music	CONGREGATIONAL HYMN REHEARSAL Rehearsal of Christmas carols (including new carols) in preparation for CarolSing. CAROLING/CAROL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE A congregational "sermon in song" for Christmas (brochure available from Church Music Department) and a Christmas program utilizing children, youth and adult music groups. HYMN OF THE MONTH "Sing Hosannas", #92.
Brotherhood	FOREIGN MISSIONS WEEK OF PRAYER AND LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING, DECEMBER 3-10 Program materials can be found in October-December issue of Brotherhood Builder, Baptist Men's Handbook and Royal Ambassador age-level materials.
Woman's Missionary Union	WEEK OF PRAYER FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS AND LOTTIE MOON OFFERING, DECEMBER 3-10 Program materials for week will be found in December WMU age-level magazines while plans for church-wide participation will be in October-December issue of Dimension magazine. Free materials such as posters, offering envelopes, prayer guides, etc. for church use mailed to WMU director in mid-October. Additional copies may be ordered from state WMU office.
Church Administration - Pastoral Ministries	REMINDER Make reservations for programs at Ridgecrest and Glorieta. Reservations received by February 1 have much better chance of confirmation.
Stewardship	REMINDER Distribute individual boxed offering envelopes to each member Send quarterly record of contribution to each church and Sunday School member Enclose a "Thank You" folder.
Evangelism	GOOD NEWS MISSISSIPPI Recheck plans for the Simultaneous Revivals in April
Student Work	STUDENT DAY AT CHRISTMAS Observe any appropriate Sunday. A service to recognize and use college students in their home churches. They relate their spiritual experiences and tell about Baptist Student Union on their campuses. Posters and suggested programs mailed to all pastors in early November so they may plan with students during Thanksgiving holidays.



Mrs. J. O. Ellett of Coffeeville has dressed dolls in crocheted costumes of all countries where Southern Baptists have missionaries. At the time the picture was made there were missionaries in 84 countries. From the map behind the dolls cords are attached to the seven divisions of the world, Middle America, Caribbean, South America, Africa, Europe, Middle East, East and Southeast Asia. The dolls are arranged in alphabetical order in such division, beginning at the bottom.

Dolls Represent Missionaries

Mrs. J. O. Ellett, director of Baptist Women in First Church, Coffeeville, began a project five years ago, in 1973, that grew into an outstanding display of missionary dolls, one representing each country where Southern Baptist foreign missionaries serve.

"Miss Ruth's" idea in the beginning was to learn more herself about the people in other countries and how they live, and to promote the work of foreign missions by stirring others' interest in the countries and their people.

With only pictures in books as a guide, she crocheted an appropriate costume for each country, dressing a doll in the outfit. When she began, there were 77 countries where Southern Baptists had missionaries, and so 77 dolls. But through the years missionaries have been sent into 14 additional countries, and on July 5, 1978, there were 91 dolls.

Missionaries have been forced to leave at least three countries during these years, but Mrs. Ellett could not bear to take the dolls out of the missionary family, having faith that they would be able to reenter at some future date.

She has displayed and shown her dolls in a number of different places. Everywhere they have attracted favorable comments, fulfilling her original desire to stir interest in and create enthusiasm for foreign missions.

Some of the places where they have been exhibited besides her own church are the Oakland Church; First Church, Water Valley; North Oxford

Church (District WMU Meeting); Hardy Church (Grenada Association meeting); First Church, Leland; Bellevue Church, Memphis, TN; Moscow, TN. Baptist Church (Vacation Bible School); and the 65-Plus Retreat at Camp Garaywa.

The dolls and Mrs. Ellett were featured on Marge Thrasher's television program, "Straight Talk," filmed in Memphis.

'Light' Reappears At Moral Concerns Agency

"Light," a Christian social ethics publication that has made only sporadic appearances in the last 15 years, has been reactivated by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

According to Executive Secretary Foy Valentine, the current, eight-page newsletter will communicate information and ideas about current ethical issues and appropriate Christian social action to interested pastors, church

staff members and denominational workers in the field of Christian ethics. During 1978-79, for example, "Light" will deal with issues such as world hunger, family, citizenship and ethical challenges in the 1980s.

Persons interested in receiving the newsletter should contact William M. Tillman, Jr., managing editor, Christian Life Commission, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn. 37219. There is no subscription fee.

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Lottie Moon Offering . . .

No Time For Timidity

One night 32 years ago in Waco, Texas, I determined in my own mind to use whatever opportunity might come my way to promote the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions through writing.

I subsequently became a daily newspaper reporter, columnist, and wire (news service) editor; and it was not until 5½ years later, through what I considered to be quite miraculous circumstances, that I entered the field of religious journalism.

Even so, it was 25 years following my initial determination — only seven years ago — that I became the editor of a religious newspaper with the opportunity to fulfill that responsibility.

All of that, however, is not the point of this piece. It is merely background.

The main emphasis is the need for \$40,000,000 to be used in sharing the gospel all over the world.

To be quite frank, that's a lot of money.

But in the spirit of Bold Mission Thrust the need of the time is being felt, and there are reports of churches establishing goals that are far beyond normal expectations in order to help provide the money to get the job done.

Last week I heard of a church that first had decided to double last year's goal, then reconsidered and decided to double it again.

My own church has adopted a goal that is roughly \$50 per family, and we are likely to exceed it.

Perhaps there are many other churches which have taken on chal-

lenging goals for the offering that are beyond what should be expected of them.

The areas of use of Lottie Moon funds will be detailed in publications, in posters, and in programs. They will be well understood by any who would care to give attention to them during the days of the offering emphasis.

Thus in this writing we will not try to promote the offering by outlining the ways in which the money will be used. Rather we would urge all who read these lines to acquaint themselves with those ways and determine to give a worthy amount for those areas of ministry.

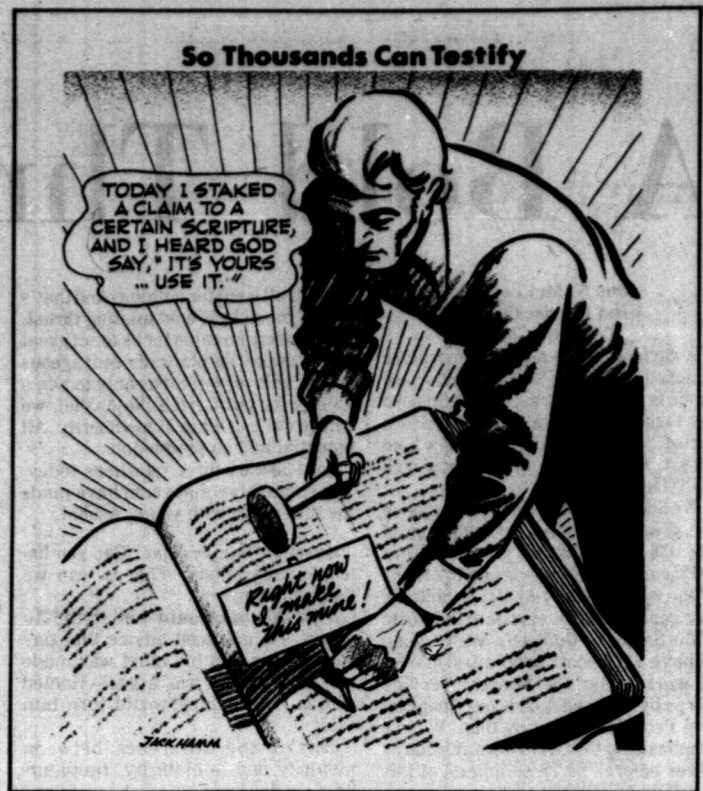
It is well known that every penny that is given for the Lottie Moon Offering is put to use on the foreign mission

field. It is also well known that the Foreign Mission Board has come to need the offering to the extent that it now makes up about half the annual budget.

These facts point up the knowledge that the offering is a vital necessity in the endeavor to carry out the Great Commission.

In the name of the Christ who delivered the Great Commission and in the spirit of the Bold Mission Thrust that seeks to witness of Him, let us not be timid in our Lottie Moon Offering.

And let us not neglect to enter into the week of prayer for foreign missions that accompanies the Lottie Moon Offering. Then let us make ourselves available for whatever way we can be used.



Letters To The Editor

Not Christians By Chance, But on Purpose

Yesterday, November 7, was the observance of the World Day of Prayer. Indy Whitten and I joined the ladies of the English-speaking Immanuel Baptist Church here in Madrid for their meeting. The day was rightly observed with prayers of thanksgiving, praise and petition, devotionals by the women of the church and singing.

As we started to leave for the meeting, and I was about to get in the Whitten car, Indy greeted me with her smile and a slight twinkle in her eyes... the twinkle meant that she had something exciting to tell. When she took a card from her purse and showed me a name and an address, I knew I was in for something interesting. The address was that of a young woman that Indy had met that morning in a small town in Alcobendas (a town on the outskirts of Madrid where our Baptist Center and Baptist Seminary are located). The young woman approached Indy in the store and said, "Do you remember me? I used to work in the Woolworth Department Store in Madrid, and once when you came in you gave me a Bible." As Indy recounted the story to me, she said, "My goodness, that was eons ago!" The young woman had always hoped to see Indy once again. She told Indy that since their first meeting, she had married and had a little girl. She asked Indy to come to her home and talk with her about Jesus Christ because she was concerned about their little girl.

When Indy related the story to me, I immediately thought, "My, what a

chance meeting in a city of over 5 million people, but later in the day I recalled the meeting of Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch. When the angel of the Lord instructed Philip to go south from Jerusalem to Gaza, it was not by chance that the Ethiopian Eunuch happened to be sitting in his chariot reading Isaiah. Neither was it by chance that "eons ago" Indy gave a Bible to a young girl working at Woolworth Store in Madrid. Indy will go to this young woman's house asking the same questions of her that Philip asked the Ethiopian Eunuch, "Do you understand what you have read?" And the Eunuch (and the young woman perhaps) responded, "How can I unless you guide me?" — and Indy will be there to guide.

The spreading of the gospel of Jesus Christ is not by chance; it is according to His will and purpose. My prayer is, "Help us, Lord, in every encounter and every situation to remember that we are NOT Christians by chance — but ON PURPOSE."

Kathy McNair
Southern Baptist Missionary
in Spain
Generalissimo, 139, L. Izqda.
Madrid, 16, Spain.

Both Indy Whitten and Kathy McNair are Mississippians. Kathy is the daughter of Marvin K. Lee, director of missions in Pearl River Association. — Editor

Desperate and Searching . . .

The Scream From Guyana

The entire nation was shocked and bewildered last week when the accounts of the murders and suicides at Jonestown in Guyana began to be heard. It is difficult to realize that such compounded tragedy could happen in our day to citizens of our nation.

That a so-called religious leader, an American citizen, would gun down in cold blood a United States congressman is unfathomable. That 900 of his followers would commit suicide en masse is incomprehensible.

As we ponder this bizarre situation, one consideration that comes to the surface is that many times when a person begins to lose his mental balance to some degree, he assumes some sort of strange religious posture. A great number of atrocities in this world have been committed in the name of religion. Beyond doubt, such actions are committed by persons of unstable

mental condition.

This would explain the behavior of the leaders of such a group as we have been reading about in the papers and hearing about in the broadcast media.

But what of those hundreds who were followers — those who managed to escape finally because just in time they realized the danger they were facing. Or those who could not escape and who either willingly or under force took their own lives and the lives of family members because that was the action that the organization demanded under the circumstances.

What of all of these? Were they crazy?

Not nearly all of them were, if any; and that is the saddest commentary of all on the entire episode. As statements of survivors have begun to be heard, we begin to understand that many of them had joined this cult be-

cause they were searching for something they had not been able to find elsewhere.

Some said they were searching for peace. Others declared they were hoping for a closer relationship with God.

These are the very concepts that Baptists claim the seeker is able to find in abundance if he will look through the eyes of faith in God through Christ. This is also what such cults claim to offer. Those in Jonestown had been led astray.

Why could we not have been there with the true Gospel? The time may come when we will have to face the fact that we could have been.

If there was ever a place where the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few, it is California. The laborers there need help. We have tried to help some, but it has not been enough. The need there is overwhelming. Could we

have done more?

Then there are such cult groups operating in Jackson, Miss., and perhaps in many other Mississippi cities. There may not be much that can be done about those who are already members, but we surely can attempt to save those who are searching who have not made that commitment yet. Where are they? Everywhere.

If there is any one thing that is being screamed to Christians all over the world by the Guyana situation, it is that people everywhere are desperate and are searching. We have what they need. They will believe us if we believe it ourselves.

The searchers are to be found not just in Mississippi and not just in California but the world around. If there was ever a need for a graphic impetus to get us going on Bold Mission Thrust, we have it now.



Montana Suits

The Montana Suit Project enters its 14th year with an added challenge. The Project has undertaken not only to provide new suits for Baptist pastors in Montana, but also to those in North Dakota. This would total 47 suits to Montana and 23 to North Dakota, or 70 in all. A suit will cost about \$85. Gifts to this project should be sent to the Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205. Make checks payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention, designating it for the Montana Suit Fund. Montana Suit Committee, pictured left to right are Al Whitehead, Nolan Brister, Cooper Walton, Paul Harrell, and Wilbur Irwin.

Conference Centers To Undergo Changes

NASHVILLE — Ridgecrest (N. C.) and Glorieta Baptist (N. M.) Conference Centers are undergoing several policy changes influencing reservation requests, deposits, accommodations and cancellations.

Reservation requests are accepted by mail only and must be postmarked Feb. 1 or later. Requests postmarked before Feb. 1 will be returned regardless of when received.

Reservations cannot be confirmed for less than a full conference week and will be held until 9:30 p.m. only on the opening day of a conference unless late arrival is requested.

"We changed the reservation acceptance dates trying to give churches and individuals more time to firm up their plans before requesting reservations Feb. 1. This gives churches a month after a normally crowded December for enlistment," said Robert Turner, director of the conference center division at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

All housing reservation requests must be accompanied by a deposit of \$30 per person with a maximum of \$60 per family. Church groups requests require \$30 per person deposit without regard to family makeup. This deposit applies toward conference services fee, accommodations and meals.

All rates for hotels, lodges and dormitories are per room per day with exception of mens and womens dorms (at Glorieta). There is no room charge for preschool through sixth grade chil-

dren staying in the same room with their parents.

Meal charges are in addition to room rates listed and rooms are not rented without meals.

In the event a confirmed reservation must be cancelled, the cancellation request must be postmarked or called into the conference center office no less than 60 days before the date on which the reservation begins in order to receive full refund of the deposit.

Those cancelling 30 to 59 days prior to the conferences will be refunded one half of the deposit. Those cancelling less than 30 days prior to conference will receive no refund.

Baptist Dollars Easy To Get, Lives Harder

ATLANTA (BP) — Average Southern Baptists are more interested in investing dollars than lives in missions, C. B. Hogue told a church planning conference in Atlanta.

Hogue, director of the evangelism section for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, added: "In the average Southern Baptist church, whether from lack of pastoral leadership or years of neglect, the people simply do not understand the true mission of the church."

"Most Southern Baptists are interested in missions if they can give money to missions rather than be personally involved in them. The concept of being missionaries themselves seems foreign to them."

In linking evangelism and church starting as the mission of the church, Hogue told 100 church leaders, "If we come back to the New Testament pattern of aggressive missions, we must emphasize that every person is a missionary."

Hogue warned that unless Southern Baptists "get outside the walls and into touch with the world" the denomination could dwindle. "When we get to the situation where we have no more children to baptize, we will dry up and die," he cautioned.

"Southern Baptists have more Monday-morning quarterbacking than any other denomination," Hogue said. "We talk about

evangelizing and congregationalizing, and we may be doing more than any other denomination in them, but we talk more about them than we do about them. If we believed in evangelizing and congregationalizing, we would stop our prattle and get involved in doing them."

Despite denominational emphases on the aims of Bold Mission Thrust, recent years have seen declines in baptisms and church starts. For instance, last year Southern Baptists recorded only 347,000 baptisms, the lowest in 27 years. Also, new church starts were down to about 750.

Although statistical data from 1978 church letters has not been compiled, some observers predict baptisms again will reflect declines and new church starts will lag.

"The responsibility for changing the world is placed directly on the church," Hogue told the church leaders. "I don't want to hassle with the para-church groups, but God gave the command to win and disciple the world to the church."

"God wants his church to grow, not only by expanding its walls, but by going out into the world where people have never heard the gospel. We (Southern Baptists) seem to have retreated to our sanctuaries, but we must get out of the sanctuary and into the world."

Among Lottie Moon Requests

(Continued from page 1)

the ministries of missionaries is that of training local people for productive work in their economy.

Another Offering allocation is for upgrading seminary facilities in Panama. If the goal is met, storage space will be converted into badly needed dormitory space. The \$25,000 requested for the building fund of the International Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina, will provide space for teaching music in the Communications Center. The same amount is needed for a girls' dormitory at the seminary in Los Teques, Venezuela. The request for the girls' dormitory was made last year but money was not available.

Mindanao, one of the largest of the Philippine Islands, is among the fastest growing area of Baptist work. The number of churches is growing at a rate of more than 20 percent a year and Southern Baptists have tried to help in the training of pastors for these new churches. Much of that help has come through the Mindanao Baptist Bible School, where \$5,000 is needed to improve the library.

Southern Baptist missionaries in Nigeria need a communications building for their radio and television work. In areas of West Africa where ground transportation is difficult, missionaries need an airplane.

Like many other needs, these will only be considered if the giving for this special offering surpasses the \$40,000,000 mark.



Inflation

Guy Henderson, Consultant for Cooperative Program Promotion
Some people must be wondering if the four horsemen of the Apocalypse have not been mis-named and one of the galloping equines must be called "inflation." In a six year span (1970-1976) our median income went up 52 percent and apparently not a minute too soon. At the same time medical care went up 53 percent, food 57 percent, autos 59 percent, college cost 70 percent, and housing a whopping 80 percent.

The little boy's definition of inflation is enough air in the balloon to keep it taut but not enough to pop it. Our economic balloon is right taut in places. Comparative statements make poor consolation but its even worse in other places. The Foreign Mission Board is having to cope with this apocalyptic runaway, and the dollar is falling in value drastically in Japan and Europe.

In the midst of this we have chosen to launch a crusade to take the gospel to every person in the world. It is a BOLD step, but so were the Golgotha steps. It means BOLD praying; but so was, "not my will but Thine." It is BOLD giving; but so was, "I lay down my life for the sheep." Inflation is just another storm at sea. The ship of Zion can weather it.

—Guy Henderson, Consultant for Cooperative Program Promotion

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Parkway Church, Natchez Oversubscribes Budget

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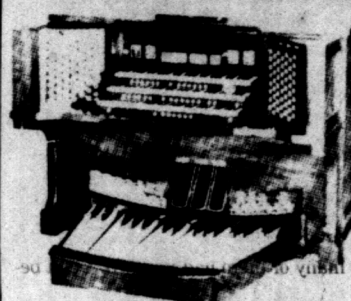
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Just For The Record



RELIGIOUS DRAMA — The Religious Drama Class of Mississippi College is performing, "The Harrowing of Hell" by William L. Hendricks, as their production for the fall semester. Included in the play are, left to right, Jerry Gentry, Clinton; Cynthia Hammack, Natchez; Tom Martin, Yazoo City; Marsha Litchfield, Jackson; Mrs. Mary C. Gentry, Clinton, Director; Sandy McDonald, Clinton; Robert Fortenberry, Jackson; Kimbrough Simmons, Memphis, Tenn.; Marc Peters, Jackson; Kay Cassibry, Gulf Breeze, Fla.; Susan Smith, Lena; and Lisa Phillips, Portageville, Mo. The group is available to perform the drama upon request.



Carrollton's New Education Building

Carrollton Baptist Church Dedicates New Facilities

Carrollton Baptist Church on Nov. 5 held dedication and open house for its new educational facilities. The new building accommodates the nursery through young people departments. Also added to the previously existing educational building was a kitchen and pastor study. An extensive renovation of the 85-year-old sanctuary was also completed during this period.

Lavon Hatten, Carroll County Association Missionary, offered the invocation during the dedication service. A resolution commending the various committees and members was presented to the church by the dedication committee, and the pastor, George Smith, recognized special memorial gifts that had been presented to the church. The church presented the pastor and his family a gift of appreciation for their leadership in the church. R. A. Cooper, chairman of the deacons, offered the dedication prayer, which was preceded by the pledge of dedication that was read by the pastor and congregation. Martin Smith, former pastor of the church, gave the benediction.

Members of the building committee were Bernard Taylor, Charles Holman, Louise Scrugge, Estelle Cooper,

David Lee Herbert, and Delbert Edwards. Members of the building finance committee were R. A. Cooper, George Allen Lee, Ronnie Beck, Willie Ulmer, Bernard Taylor, and M. A. Smith. The dedication committee consisted of George Allen Lee, Linda Perkins, Linda Herbert, Mary Etta Minyard, and Aliene Rayburn.

The Simpson County Baptist Association is sponsoring a nursing home ministry that amounts to giving the residents of Mendenhall Nursing Home a pastor.

Hugh Shoemaker, former pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, and a resident of Martinville Community in Simpson County, will offer Sunday morning Bible studies, and make visits to rooms of patients who cannot attend.

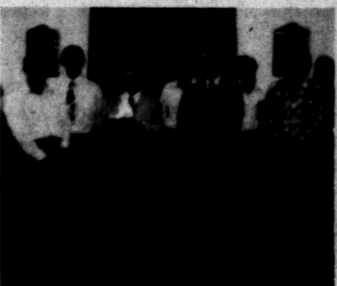
The association will provide large print literature free for the studies.

Shoemaker has agreed to be on call during the week for emergencies and will provide these pastoral services: personal counseling, additional visits in time of serious illness, assistance to families in crisis times.



Training Award

Mrs. Virginia Watts, Church Training director, Bogue Chitto Church, Bogue Chitto, and W. A. Sullivan, pastor, display the certificate and seals acknowledging their recognition as a distinguished Church Training Program.



GOODEN LAKE CHURCH, Belzoni, burned a note Nov. 12, declaring the church free of debt. Bill Canoy, pastor, and the deacons, pictured, took part in the ceremony.

Youth Choir HALLELUJAH Set In Liberty, Mo.

NASHVILLE — An SBC Youth Choir HALLELUJAH is scheduled June 27-30, 1979, at William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo. Church youth choirs must make application to participate by Feb. 28, 1979.

Wesley L. Forbis, chairman of the department of music of William Jewell College, will be the guest clinician for this year's HALLELUJAH and Rennie Berry, pastor of First Baptist Church,

Mulvane, Kan., will be the pastor for the four-day conference.

Each choir in the HALLELUJAH will be in the parade of choirs where two of their numbers will be judged and all participating choirs will take part in mass choir rehearsals.

All choir directors will have a private consultation in the form of practical suggestions from the adjudicator and each choir will have a 30-minute private rehearsal with the adjudicator.

James C. Gibson, youth music consultant in the church music department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, will serve as director of the youth choir HALLELUJAH.

Cost will be \$50 per person, which includes room, meals, insurance and administrative costs. For application information, write Youth Music Consultant, HALLELUJAH, Church Music Department, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234.

Iowa Fellowship Names Parker Executive Director

DES MOINES, Iowa (BP) — Wilson Parker, missions division director for the Pennsylvania - South Jersey Baptist Convention, has been named executive director of the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship, effective Jan. 1.

The Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship, headquartered in Des Moines, hopes to organize as a state convention related to the work of the Southern Baptist Convention, which now has 34 state conventions covering all 50 states. The SBC Home Mission Board works with Iowa churches, in cooperation with the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Although Iowa Baptists, who number more than 8,000 originally hoped to organize a state convention in 1979 or 1980, they have no current target date, according to John Tanner, chairman of the search committee which nominated Parker.

Parker, 61, succeeds David Bunch, now Mission Service Corps coordinator for the Home Mission Board in Atlanta. He had been in the Penn-Jersey Convention post since March, 1978, following two years as director of associational missions for the neighboring New York Baptist Con-

vention. He also has served as director of missions, stewardship and Brotherhood for the Northern Plains Baptist Convention; area missionary for Montana; area missionary for South Dakota; and pastor of churches in Illinois, Nebraska, Tennessee and Montana.

A native of Jamestown, Tenn., Parker is a cum laude graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., and is also an alumnus of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

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NAMES IN THE NEWS

Duke K. McCall, Louisville, Ky., president of Southern Seminary, is expected to have a complete recovery following an operation Nov. 4, to correct a blocked artery. Physicians have said that McCall should return to full business activities in about 90 days, and that his general health may be even better than before, as a result of the coronary-bypass procedure. It is McCall's first hospitalization in his 27 years as president.

Troy Prince, executive secretary and editor for the Alaska Baptist Convention, is recuperating from an illness incurred in September which has prevented his return to Alaska since that time. Prince, 58, who became ill while visiting his mother in Shreveport, La. missed the annual meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention, Nov. 14-16. He said he will continue plans to host the annual meetings of state Baptist executive secretaries and editors in Anchorage, Feb. 13-15. The Alaska executive, who has spent periods of recuperation with family members in Louisiana, Arkansas and California, said he was treated initially in the coronary care unit of a Shreveport hospital. He said doctors eventually diagnosed a hiatal hernia and possible heart involvement but predicted full recovery.

Joe Walters of St. Simons, Ga., sang at the Georgia Baptist Convention. He has been minister of music at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, and is a graduate of Mississippi College. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe J. Walters, Sr. of Petal and brother of Forrest County Sheriff Gene Walters.

Funeral services were to be held in Richmond, Va., Nov. 11 for **Josephine C. Norwood**, 65, who died less than six weeks after her Sept. 30 retirement as Woman's Missionary Union secretary for the Maryland Baptist Convention. Miss Norwood, who had been seriously ill during the past year, had recently moved to a Richmond, Va. nursing home from the Baltimore, Md., area.

George Association messengers approved a resolution commending the work and talent of one from the association, Mrs. **Reeta Davidson**. In part, the document stated, "Reeta Davidson is a Christian with great talent and has blessed the lives of many Christians. She has musical ability as a soloist to move hearts for God; she has recorded an album entitled 'To God Be The Glory'; and has made this album available to others; and is personally available for church revivals, conferences and other church-related services. The George County Baptist Association, in its 59th annual meeting, commends to those of this reading the inspiration and blessings that may be obtained through the talent of this great Christian."

W. D. (Dub) Joiner, associate editor of "The Christian Index," state newspaper for Georgia Baptists, has resigned to become editor and publisher of a South Georgia weekly newspaper. He joined the Georgia Baptist publication in Sept. 1977, after serving for four years as bureau chief in Waycross, Ga., for "The Florida Times Union." Previously, he worked for newspapers in Atlanta, Ga.; Statesboro, Ga.; Alma, Ga.; and DeLand, Fla.



LEFT TO RIGHT, FRONT ROW: Kim Cutler, Carenia Morgan, Melissa Dement. BACK ROW: Brenda Bourne, Glenda Robertson, Deirdra Dement, Debbie Davis, and Melissa Williamson.

A Good Year At Goss

Eight Acteens received their crowns as Goss Church, Marion Association, closed the church year.

The church has broadened many areas of ministry, such as ten Super Sunday Night Specials featuring various types of music programs.

Sunday night training increased as members heard R. L. and Beth Sigrest and other musical groups. Jim Watts, music missionary and consultant to the Italian Baptist Convention, gave the program an added missionary emphasis.

Senior adult ministry began this year as the church bought a new bus. Transportation was provided to the Metro Mall in Jackson and a trip to the Natchez Trace. These adults also participated in ten special worship services held in local rest homes.

An extension program was expanded by reproduction of worship services for members to hear in their homes. Three women carry on a weekly ministry to 21 shut-ins.

Youth participated in skating parties, B. J. Thomas concert, Vacation Bible School, a trip to 8 Flags over Biloxi, ice cream suppers, water bogging, hay rides, and several mission outings.

The educational program was broadened through a World Mission Conference. A special preschool clinic was held along with January Bible study and other associational programs.

A Woman's Missionary Union was organized, including Acteens, G.A.'s, and Mission Friends.

Following a puppet seminar held at First Church, Columbia a puppet ministry was organized in teams. Later puppets were bought and now this ministry is ready to begin. The church has called Gary Sumrall as minister of music and youth. He now directs three choirs and the puppet ministry.

Baptist Men meet monthly for a breakfast and hear speakers ranging from business men to highway patrol officers. These men built a church sign. They now plan to use individual skills to aid members of the community. Two Baptist men organized an RA program.

Church beautification was part of the summer program as painters worked on the church trim. During the same period the church updated the air-conditioning system of the educational building.

Recreational facilities were completed and lighted for tennis and basketball, and softball.

In July 41 members and guests of the church chartered a bus to spend a week in Disney World, Cypress Gardens, and Silver Springs. In August 21 rose at 4:30 to drive to the coast for a deep sea trip. (Pastor's son, Jeff, age 8, caught a 24-lb Jack).

Financially the church remains out of debt and continues to support all convention causes. A record gift to the Cooperative Program was recorded this year with \$4953 being given. Some \$600 was spent in local missions to help members who were sick.

State Missions reached \$558 and foreign missions was \$2605. The church also gave \$204 to the Baptist Children's Village. Total mission gifts were approximately \$9000.

In the area of evangelism Goss reached 25 people by baptism and eight others by letter. In looking over the church year Jerry Mixon, pastor, said, "We may not reach the same figures other churches have reached but God only demands that we be faithful with what we have, so I believe we have had a good year. Now with these eight Acteens standing before us as a symbol of dedication to Jesus Christ I must ask for wisdom and knowledge that I may go out and come in before his people... these great people" (II Chr. 1:10).

Devotional

Chickens Come Home To Roost

By Jimmy McGee, Pastor, East McComb

Proverbs 23:7 begins with the statement, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he." Galatians 6:7 reads, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Great teachers have agreed with the former verse. Emerson said, "A man is what he thinks about all day long." Marcus Aurelius said, "Our life is what our thoughts make it." Jesus insisted, "From the heart proceed the issues of life."

A man may not be what he thinks he is, but he is what he thinks about! And if we are what we think and do, then we are our habits.

I grew up with (not in) a henhouse and a yard full of chickens. We used to "set a hen." It usually started with the discovery of a very possessive hen protecting her nest. We would gather fresh and fertile eggs from other nests and place with the setting hen.

Twenty-one days and a faithful setting hen were enough to incubate the eggs and hatch the chicks. Modern methods take three weeks. The chicks would grow into pullets and fryers and hens and roosters and live their allotted time.

Always they came home to the henhouse to roost at night. Many are the times I can remember my grandmother cautioning me about thoughts, acts, and habits with the statement, "The chickens will come home to roost." That is, by interpretation, Your sins will find you out and/or Your good will be rewarded.

Like hatching chicks, we incubate habits. Have an idea; think on it; act it out time and again; soon it is fullgrown into a habit, and the habits, altered only by the grace of God, decide the story of our lives.

Too often, someone will excuse the slip of the tongue or an unseemly behaviour by saying, "It's only a habit; I didn't mean anything by it."

But in exacting veracity, the habit is a tell-tale of what we are. One definition of habit in Webster's is the wearing apparel of a specific rank or profession as a priest or nurse. Immediately on sight, one identifies the person.

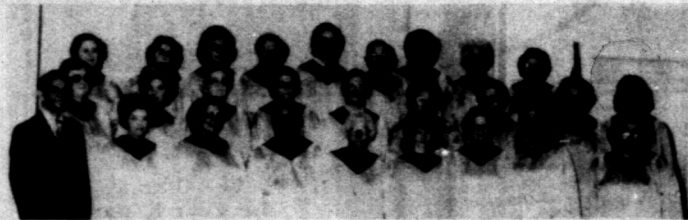
Habits ought to work for us and not against us. Good habits, properly developed, and used to best advantage can work for us and redound to God's glory. Habits don't just happen. They are developed in repetition. Bad habits seem to come naturally and are easily picked up and nourished. Good habits require discipline. One must choose, discriminate, and constantly prune out the bad.

Paul advises sharply to Philippians 4:8 as he writes, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."



Distinguished Recognition

For the eighth consecutive year Harmony Church, Winston Association, has reached Distinguished Recognition on the Church Training Achievement Guide, and the two years prior to this it was Advanced — making a total of 10 years that it has been using the Achievement Guide. Left to right are Tommy Jones, pastor; Mr. J. D. Gregory, Church Training director; Jerry Kemp, senior high leader; Mrs. M. D. Williamson, children's leader; Terry Gregory, director of enlistment; M. D. Williamson, children's leader; Melissa Williamson, children's leader; Mrs. Jerry Kemp, senior high leader; and Mrs. Gate Gregory, children's leader.



Wayne County Musicians

The Wayne County Baptist Musicians, representing music leadership in 12 churches, presented pre-session music at Mt. Zion Church on "M" Night, Nov. 28. This group also presented pre-session music for the annual associational meetings in October. Music leadership of Wayne Association has been meeting monthly under the leadership of Mrs. W. W. Boggan, associational music director. Linda Jones serves as pianist and Mrs. Gene Barnett, as organist. W. W. Boggan is director of missions.

Uniform Lesson

The Divine Quest

By Jackie Hamilton,
Highland, Meridian
Genesis 12:1-3; Hebrews 1:1,2; Luke 15:4-10

Christians have found that in order to attain wholeness they have to stop running. There is no escape to be found in any man-made solution, whether it be an intellectual system or an experience of all of life's sensual feelings. The facts of this week's lesson offer tremendous hope to those who are still running.

I. God Reached Out To Abraham
(Genesis 12:1-3)

God reached out about four thousand years ago to reveal himself to one family. On this occasion he chose one person to receive new truth about himself.

Try to imagine what was involved in obeying this guidance. Abraham had to sever all his family and business connections, uproot himself, procure supplies for a new and strange way of life. He was giving up the comforts and conveniences of a world he knew to live as a nomad under canvas with no settled abode. From a common sense point of view, it was crazy. Doubtless Abraham had many friends who told him just that. Where was he going? Well, he did not know exactly. What was he going to do? He was going to find a new nation somewhere else. Found a new nation? What was he talking about? Nevertheless, Abraham carried out his decision. He left Ur, of the Chaldees.

Each new day is like a hitherto unvisited country which we enter — like Abraham leaving Ur for a strange land — "Not knowing whither he went." Every new year we begin a tour of exploration into twelve months where no man's foot has ever walked before.

If we stop running we can go out even though we do not know where we are going and we can go confidently like Abraham. That is, provided that we can say with the Psalmist: "My times are in thy hand."

God knows each one of you, and He has a plan for you. God made one you — and only one. Nobody who ever lived was quite as you are now. God gave you life for a purpose, and if you fail to fulfill it, that purpose will never be realized.

We are living in a hazardous epoch of history. The wind... the earthquake... and the fire of old are here, in fact the

threat of more terrible fire than man ever thought possible. It would be tragedy indeed if the still, small voice of God's wisdom and direction is not heard at such a time.

II. God Reached Out In His Son
(Hebrews 1:1,2)

In the Greek text, the order of the words is, "at sundry times and in divers manners God spake." The main idea in the writer's mind here is not that God spake, but that it was at sundry times and in divers manners that He spake. He is not combating the denial of a revelation, but is preparing the reader for the truth that God has now.

John the Baptist said, "I am a voice of one who is crying out in the wilderness" (John 1:23). John is merely one among many voices which God used in the Old Testament dispensation. But note, the one crying out, giving the message, was God. John was his articulate voice, a mere instrument in his hands.

From age to age the prophets had spoken, always fitting their message to their age, always seizing that facet of the truth which was relevant to the men to whom they spoke. But, at the same time, that revelation was fragmentary and had to be presented in such a way that the limitations of the time would not prevent understanding. Thus ultimately God revealed himself in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the shining of God's glory among men. He was the character of God's very essence, substance and being.

When the writer to the Hebrews said that Jesus was the character of the very being of God, he meant that Jesus is the exact image and expression of God. As you look at the impression, you see exactly what the seal which made it is like. Thus if you look at Jesus you see exactly what God is like. Jesus is not fragmentary and incomplete; He is the full and exact expression of God.

III. God Reaches Out To The Lost
(Luke 15:4-10)

A. The Lost Sheep

A sheep becomes lost when it takes its eyes off the shepherd. There seems to be an inherent stupidity or foolishness about this animal which makes it wander off without any idea of direction or danger. It is one of the tragic facts of human life that men and

women fool themselves when they think life can be satisfied without God. The devil has so blinded their minds that they fail to see that the only one that can satisfy is God. He made us for himself and without him there is a vast emptiness that no created being or thing can ever fill.

George Adam Smith writing about eastern sheep says, "On some high moor across which hyena howl, you may meet the shepherd, sleepless, farsighted, weather-beaten, armed, leaning on his staff, and looking out over his scattered sheep with every one on his heart. And then you understand why the shepherds spring to the front in his people's history: why they gave his name to the king and made him the symbol of providence and why Christ took him as the type of self-sacrifice."

B. The Lost Coin

One of the most striking features of our Lord's teaching here on earth was his vindication before others of the worth of man. In those days the value of human life had sunk to the lowest depths. Men were considered of such little value that it was thought fitting for them to die by the score at the Coliseum in Rome simply to amuse the holiday crowd.

Indeed, those were the days when slavery flourished in its worst form. Remember that these words were addressed to the Pharisees and the scribes who murmured at Jesus because he received sinners and actually ate with them. So, we have in this story the dignity of possessing the silver coin.

It takes little imagination to picture the disturbance and dust created by sweeping the floor of an eastern home. These Palestinian houses were dark for they were lit by one little window not much more than eighteen inches across; hence the need for the light of the lamp. In addition to this, the floor consisted of beaten earth covered with dried reeds and bushes; thus, to look for a coin on a floor like that was very much like looking for a needle in a haystack.

When the woman found the coin she rejoiced. This is the witness of true conversion. There is nothing like the joy of sin forgiven. David describes this when he says, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."

Life and Work Lesson

Continuing In Prayer

By Bill Duncan,
Long Beach, First
Luke 11:1-13; 18:1-8

Do you know many Christians who are opposed to prayer? "Of course not," you may say. A person who is opposed to prayer needs to be saved. But I know many people who do not pray as they should.

"Prayerlessness," as defined by my friend, "is that state in which one prays less than he ought; less than the Father desires, and less than that one himself knows he should."

Is prayerlessness just a weakness, or a habit, or the result of a busy life? Prayerlessness is a sin! Understand that to not continue in prayer as we should is a sin. It is a sin because God commanded us to pray. Prayerlessness is a sin against the plan and purpose of God. The result of prayerlessness is that the power of God is limited in the church. This is why so much of the Bible is about prayer.

"The Athletes" Will Feature Tom Landry

Fort Worth, Texas (BP) — Tom Landry, no stranger to national television, will be on CBS's "Lamp Unto My Feet" on December 3 telling how God calls the plays in his life.

Landry, head coach for the Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys, is featured in the film, "Tom Landry," a 15-minute episode of "The Athletes" series produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

John Stevens, vice president, television operations and producer/director of the film, will be interviewed about his work with "The Athletes" and the Radio and Television Commission.

"Through the series we show professional and amateur athletes as three-dimensional people," Stevens said. "We feature them as family people with a variety of interests outside sports. Most sports-minded people see the athlete only in action. In 'Tom Landry' we show the man's secret in coping with pressure — through faith in Jesus Christ."

"The Athletes" series has been distributed to stations across the nation as well as the Armed Forces Television Network.

ness is that the power of God is limited in the church. This is why so much of the Bible is about prayer.

"Prayer is our need crying out for help. Prayer is the voice of faith to the Father. Prayer is the Living Word in lips of faith."

—E. W. Kenyon

"Prayer is the channel through which all good flows from God to man, and all good from men to men. Prayer is a privilege, a sacred, princely privilege. Prayer is a duty, an obligation most binding, and most imperative, which should hold us to it. But prayer is more than a privilege, more than a duty. It is a means, an instrument, a condition. It is the appointed condition of getting God's aid. It is the avenue through which God supplies man's wants." — E. M. Bounds

Jesus assumed the disciples would continue in prayer. He said, "when you pray." This assumption is stronger than a command. The verbs in the passage concerning the model prayer are in the present tense which denote continual action.

In the model prayer, we see the assumption of prayer in the phrase, "Give us this day our daily bread." The emphasis is upon daily bread and from the reference of the morning looking forward to the day. These ideas suggest that Jesus assumed that the disciples would have regular prayer time.

After Jesus gave the model prayer at the request of the disciples, He gave the parable of the friend at midnight. The twin parable of the unscrupulous judge who gave in to the persistent widow. The point of the parable is that any need for persistence is not grounded in God's reluctance to give, but in our own need to continue praying until our prayers are in harmony with His will.

If God does not respond immediately, many seekers lose faith and quit praying. Continuing to pray is an act of faith that we believe in God.

Endurance in Prayer

The parable of the friend at midnight in an assurance that God answers prayer. Even a man will grant your request, if not out of love, at least in answer to your persistence in asking. How much more will our loving Father grant the persistent prayers of His

children. Even an earthly father will not give his son less than he asks.

This is not to say that God resists our petition. It is to say that we ought to be as persistent in prayer as we would be in borrowing bread from a neighbor. God expects us to really want what we ask. We should keep on praying and not lose heart because the prayer does not appear to be immediately answered.

The best of men are subject to sin. Yet they all know what is the good gift for their children. On the basis of this knowledge, can we not trust God?

Earnestness in Our Prayers

"Men ought always to pray and not to faint." Continuous praying is an absolute necessity for the followers of Christ. "Ought" is an imperative which suggests a moral and spiritual obligation.

Jesus gave this parable to illustrate the time when He would be taken away from the sheep and they would be like lambs among the wolves. In that experience, and other trials of persecution, the sheep are constantly to call upon God in prayer.

"To faint" means to give in to evil, to lose heart, or to play the coward. Men are not to faint but to rely upon prayer for strength, encouragement, and bravery.

The parable of the unscrupulous judge was given to encourage the disciples to be persistent in prayer. The widow asked for protection from an adversary. His persistence in refusing matched her persistence in pleading. Finally, he gave in not because he feared God or cared about the widow but because she kept troubling him about her case and annoyed him.

God is not indifferent to our cries. He is longsuffering. It may be that even though we pray, our hearts are not conditioned so as to receive the answer.

We often say our prayers are unanswered. But God has one of three answers to every prayer: No, yes, or wait. If the answer is wait, we should keep on praying and leave the time and answer in God's hands. After all, is not that the meaning of "Thy will be done?"

The widow typifies the faith in prayer that Jesus will look for when He comes back to this earth. "Shall He find the kind of faith that produces persistent prayer in time of trouble?" (Luke 18:8)